

# Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

## Norovirus, RT-PCR (Version 1)

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Specimen Type	Collection Time	Collection Frequency	Collection Procedures	Transport Media	Shipping & Handling (S&H)**
Stool	At illness. For optimal detection, collect within 24-48 hours of symptom onset.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect stool in a sterile plastic screw top container with no preservatives (such as a urine specimen container).</li> <li>Seal the container with parafilm (if available) and individually bag each specimen.</li> <li><b>Minimum volume:</b> walnut-sized (or at least 2 grams of fresh stool).</li> </ul>	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Transport device:</b> Sterile screw top container.</li> <li><b>Rejection Criteria:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaky specimen.</li> <li>Not enough volume.</li> <li>Inappropriate method for collecting Norovirus specimens, i.e. sample size too small, stool placed in transport media.</li> <li>Inappropriate container. Specimens that are not individually bagged will not be tested.</li> <li>Inappropriate storage conditions.</li> <li>Please see general rejection criteria on page 2.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Transport:</b> Immediately refrigerate specimens at 2-8°C. Ship by overnight mail with ice packs. Ship as Category B.</li> <li><b>Storage:</b> Refrigerate at 2-8°C.</li> </ul>

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### **General Rejection Criteria (for additional details, see S&H)**

- Did not obtain LHJ approval.
- Failure to follow specific S&H requirements.

#### **NOTE:**

Specimens will not be processed until ALL of the following information are provided on requisition form:

- Patient name, patient's county of residence, second identifier, and date of onset.
- Two matching identifiers on both the tube and the laboratory requisition form.
- Specimen type, date of collection, and test requested.
- Submitter name, address, and telephone/FAX numbers.

### **Collection kit availability**

Not available.

### **Comments**

- Testing requires approval by the state communicable disease epidemiology through your Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ).